

Remarks

Claims 1, 5-9, 11-19 and 22 were pending.

Claims 1, 11 and 12 are amended.

Claims 5, 7 and 11 are as previously presented.

Claims 6, 8, 9 and 13-19 are original.

Claim 22 is cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 23 is new.

The application now contains claims 1, 5-9, 11-19 and 23.

Claim 1 is amended to delete from line 4, immediately following the term "an alkylated diphenylamine" the phrase "selected from the group consisting of mono-, di-, and" and to insert in its stead "comprising a". Thus, the alkylated diphenylamine component must contain a tri-nonylated diphenylamine. The claim is further amended in the fourth line following the formula to specify that at least three R groups in the at least one acridan are not hydrogen. Support is inherent in the claim tri-nonylated diphenylamine was already listed as a possible reactant in the previous iteration of the claim which would give rise to an acridan having three nonyl substituents.

Claim 11 is correspondingly amended to specify that at least three R groups in the at least one acridan are not hydrogen. Claim 12 is amended to specify that the alkylated diphenylamine comprises each of mono-, di-, and tri-nonylated diphenylamine. Support is inherent in the claims.

New claim 23 finds support in claims 1 and 12.

No new matter is added.

Rejections

Claims 1, 5-9 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wheeler, US 5,268,394 in view of Aebli, US 6,315,925.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Wheeler discloses acridans formed from dialkyl diphenylamines and Aebli discloses mixtures of alkylated diphenylamines. The Examiner states that Applicants product as previously claimed, comprising a mixture of alkylated acridan and alkylated diphenylamine, could be produced by, e.g., adding the alkylated diphenylamine of Aebli to the Acridan of Wheeler. Applicants had argued in part that neither reference disclosed a tri-nonylated acridan.

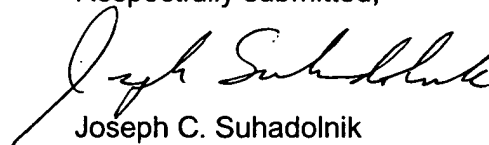
In the present Action, the Examiner notes that Wheeler discloses acridans formed from dialkyl diphenylamines wherein the alkyl groups can contain 1-18 carbon atoms and thus, Wheeler can be said to disclose a genus encompassing certain nonylated acridans to which can be added the diphenylamines of Aebli. The Examiner however agrees that as neither Wheeler nor Aebli discloses tri-substituted acridans, one would not be directed to use mixtures of Aebli containing tri-alkylated diphenylamines as a starting material for the process of Wheeler.

The claims as instantly amended all require the preparation of at least one acridan which is substituted by three nonyl groups. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the limitations of the claims, specifically the tris-nonylated acridan, are not met by the references either alone or in combination and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1, 5-9, 11-19 and 23 be found allowable.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,



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